

San Diego Unified Council of PTAs



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November 21, 2016

County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
Attention: Bulmaro Canseco
CAP Project Manager
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 110
San Diego CA 92123

RE: Notice of Preparation Documentation for County of San Diego Climate Action
Amendment

Dear Mr. Canseco:

The San Diego Unified Council of PTAs appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the *Notice of Preparation Presentation* (NOP) for the proposed County of San Diego Climate Action Plan and General Plan Amendment, dated October 20, 2016.

The San Diego Unified Council of PTAs supports at the local level the PTA's mission to promote the welfare of children and youth and secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth. In May 2015, the California State PTA adopted the resolution *Climate Change is a Children's Issue* urging PTAs to advocate for comprehensive local, state and national legislation to substantially reduce man-made contributions to climate change and mitigate its impact on children's health.

With that mission in mind, we would like to comment on your *Public Outreach and Engagement Plan* to local stakeholders. One of the most important stakeholders for the County Climate Action Plan is our region's youth. They will bear the brunt of climate change effects and have much at stake in a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We urge the County to use innovative ways to reach young people in your outreach and engagement plan. Young people are one of the least likely groups to attend public meetings. Other government agencies are using new innovative ways to engage the public such as social media, pop up events and virtual town halls – basically taking the message out to the public rather than expecting people to come to the County. These techniques and others could be targeted to young people – even as young as high school students.

From our work with youth, we know they worry about their future. One of the best ways to reassure them is to let them know their government is listening to their concerns. If the

County is serious about gaining meaningful input from a wide range of voices, we urge you to make sure your outreach engages the group with the most to lose – and gain – from a strong climate action plan – young people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Schumacher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Laura" is on the left and "Schumacher" is on the right, connected by a fluid script.

Laura Schumacher
Climate Action Committee Chair
San Diego Unified Council of PTAs
lauras@san.rr.com